



MEETING MINUTES / 17 APRIL 2018

ATTENDANCE:

Present: Farley, Showell (telephone), Armbruster (telephone), Johnson (telephone), Lardizzone, Lopez (telephone), McMullen, Newstadt, Seppala, and Stewart (telephone) **66%**

Absences: Baldwin, Bradley, Magner, Newman, and Sarg

Guests: Ginny Yelland (Wilmington VAMC), Dave Skocik (Delaware Coalition), Kim McMullen, Elizabeth Short (DHSS), John Richter (Sussex Vet Center), MyRon Smith, Gloria Smith, and Dave Rich (DOL)

CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS:

Requested moment of silence for Liz Byers-Jiron and Ron Sarg's recoveries. Also a moment for Syria attack victims

MEETING MINUTES:

Approved, motions: Lardizzone and Newstadt

ADMINISTRATIVE REMARKS:

Wilmington VAMC – Ginny Yelland, Public Affairs (via telephone)

Kent CBOC expansion bid, 19K additional square feet, has been forwarded

- Bidder should be selected in June

Sussex CBOC's radiology room is nearing completion

Progress is being made with the new community based care structure

- Initial activation was done in New Jersey and Delaware activations will follow

19 April: Veteran Outreach Initiative at American Legion Post 28, Long Neck

24 April: Resource Benefits Fair at University of Delaware Star Campus / 1000 - 1400

Delaware Veterans Home (DVH) – Bill Peterson, Director:

Not present

Home of the Brave, Director Jessica Finan:

Not present

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

MyRon Smith

Attended Social Security and Medicare briefing at Wilmington VAMC

- Information was helpful and calls attention to learning more about these programs

Dave Rich, DOL

Department is focused on apprenticeship programs and connecting employers with veterans

Dover AFB Transition Summit was successful

- Excellent employer interaction with service members

DoD Skill Bridge Program allow service members to work for a civilian organization within six months of separation

Dave Skocik, Delaware Veterans Coalition
Attended the Gold Star Memorial Groundbreaking
New Castle County, 100% disabled veterans will receive an additional tax break (county)
- Should look to seek this break throughout Delaware
28 May: Vietnam Veterans of America Memorial Day Ceremony at Kent County Park / 1400

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Bear Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Commissioner Armbruster:

Interments – 77

Millsboro Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Commissioner Bradley:

Interments – 20

Health and Human Services, Commissioner Sarg:

Legislative Affairs, Commissioner McMullen:

Reviewing legislative agenda for veteran related proposals
(Newstadt) Veterans should confirm they are receiving proper credit toward social security

ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS:

Commissioner McMullen (AFSA)

Asked to accompany national leadership to lobby during Capitol Hill testimonies

Member for Life Drive

JROTC Awards Program

Packed 700 back packs during Food Bank community event

Preparing for NASCAR fundraising

25 May Golf Tournament

31 Mar: Attended Kent Vietnam Veterans Event

6 Apr: Attended DVH Gold Wing Dedication

Commissioner Armbruster (AL)

26 Mar: Attended Veterans Summit (Sen. Carper)

29 Mar: Attended Sussex Vietnam Veterans Event

Attended VAVS meeting, for American Legion, at Wilmington VAMC

6 Apr: Attended DVH Gold Wing Dedication

13 - 15 Apr: National Oratorical Program in Indianapolis

- Delaware represented by Shreyas Parab, Archmere Academy

10 – 14 Jun: Boys State, 120 participants

6 – 7 Jul: State Convention at Dover Downs

- Brett Reistad is leading National Commander Candidate

Commissioner Bradley (AMVETS) Not present but forwarded information

26 Mar: Attended Veterans Summit (Sen. Carper)

29 Mar: Attended Sussex Vietnam Veterans Ceremony

6 Apr: Attended DVH Gold Wing Dedication

16 Mar: Southern DE Therapeutic Riding Fundraiser included veteran therapy

24 Mar: Post 2 Easter Egg Hunt was held

27 Apr: Post 2 Ladies are selling white clovers to support DVH

28 May: Post 2 Memorial Day Ceremony

9 Jun: State Convention at Post 2

Post 2 has donated \$30K to Cape Henlopen and Sussex Central's JROTCs

Commissioner Lardizzone (DAV)

26 Mar: Attended Veterans Summit (Sen. Carper)

31 Mar: Attended Kent Vietnam Veterans Ceremony

5 Apr: Attended Womens' Monument meeting

13 Apr: Attended Executive Committee meeting

22 Apr: New York DAV 98th Anniversary Dinner

Commissioner Johnson (KWVA)

Wounded Warrior Fund paid off \$800.00 veteran phone bill

Wounded Warrior Fund paid \$300.00 veteran security deposit for housing

Wounded Warrior Fund willing to pay for weekly veterans' meals due to Cheer Center fire impacting Meals on Wheels

Turned down Republic of Korea, Ministry of Patriots offer to host Korean War veterans' recognition

Both chapters are doing fundraisers this month

Chapter 1, through Wounded Warrior Fund, is rewarding six JROTC scholarships \$1K each

Commissioner Farley (MCL)

Nothing to report

Commissioner Sarg (MOAA) Not present but forwarded information

26 Mar: Attended Veterans Summit (Sen. Carper)

26 Mar: Attended Delaware Veterans Coalition Meeting

2 Apr: Attended Brain Injury Council Meeting

6 Apr: Attended DVH Gold Wing Dedication

16 – 18 Apr: Storming the Hill (Capitol)

Commissioner Magner (MOPH) Not present but forwarded information

19 May: Department Convention at Dover Downs

- Three National Officers will be in attendance

Leadership certificates and medals will be presented to top ROTC and JROTC cadets from Apr – Jun

Purple Heart Truck Run, country-wide event, raises mobility needs for disabled veterans

- Display truck will be at Cabela's 19 Jun / 1030

Commissioner Newman (VFW)

Not present

Commissioner Baldwin (VVA)

Not present

Commissioner Showell (At Large)

Chicks for Charity, supporting the DVTF, will host a fundraising dinner on 18 September

- Specific location and details will become available later

Delaware National Guard is hosting the Memorial Day Bridge Ceremony

Reminder, General Timmons is the lead for the Legislative Education Task Force

Commissioner Newstadt (At Large)

Sought confirmation of listed event dates

Commissioner Seppala (At Large)

26 Mar: Attended Veterans Summit (Sen. Carper)

9 Apr: Attended Gold Star Memorial Groundbreaking

28 Apr: MOWW Region III Convention at Delaware Military Museum

6 – 12 Aug: National Convention, Columbus GA

MOWW will present JROTC awards to 18 high schools and is awarding two \$1K scholarships for Valley Forge Leadership Conference attendance

Commissioner Lopez (At Large)

24 Mar: Attended, emceed Female Tea

30 Mar: Speaker for Wounded Warrior Project PTSD Group

- Presented AW2 reset and DCVA information

3 Apr: Attended Womens' Monument meeting

5 & 12 Apr: DelVets Post 2 Memorial Day meetings

- Planning for 28 May event

11 Apr: Presented during Veterans Response Training

- Explained female combat veteran challenges

28 Apr: Post 2 is hosting an art display event

Commissioner Stewart (At Large)

Looking to host Delaware Tech, Wilmington University, and University of Delaware student veterans to discuss fundraising opportunities and community service

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:

DVTF: Requests 15, Granted 9 (60%), Awarded \$9,731.00 and Balance \$45,163.81

TERM EXPIRATION:

21 October 2018

EVENTS:

55+ Expo, Rollins Center, 18 Apr / 0900 - 1500

Delaware Joining Forces Meeting, Adams State Service Center, 19 April / 0800

Veterans Community Partners Meeting, Wilmington VAMC Bldg 5, 27 Apr / 1000

Governor's Prayer Breakfast, Modern Maturity Center, 3 May / 0700

Bear Cemetery Memorial Day Ceremony, Bear Cemetery, 26 May / 1030

Memorial Day Ceremony, Dover Veterans Triangle, 28 May / 1100

Bridge Memorial Day Ceremony, Veterans Park, 30 May / 1030

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

ITEMS FOR THE GOOD AND WELFARE OF THE ORGANIZATION:

(Farley) The commissioner (group) photo will be taken during the May meeting

(Farley) Seeking commissioner and veteran service organization interest in hosting a summit for state/departmental leaders

SPECIAL SESSION:

None

NEXT MEETING:
LOCATION:
Room

Tuesday, 15 May 2018 at 10:00 AM
Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs Conference